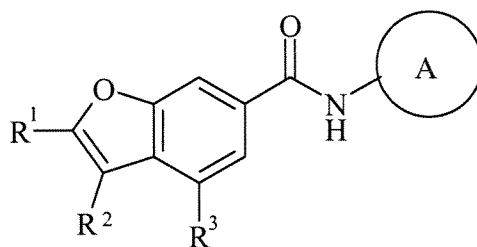


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of formula (I) or a salt ~~or an *in vivo*~~ hydrolysable ester or amide thereof, containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group,



(I)

wherein:

Ring A is pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl; wherein said pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R⁴;

one of **R¹** and **R²** is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl; wherein R¹ and R² are optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R⁵;

R³ is selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocycloxy and heterocycloxy; wherein R³ is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R⁶; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C₁₋₄alkyl;

R⁴ is selected from halo, carboxy and C₁₋₄alkyl;

R⁵ and **R⁶** are independently selected from halo, C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, *N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)amino, *N,N*-(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂amino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocycloxy, heterocycloxy and carbocyclidenyl; wherein R⁵ and R⁶ are independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R⁷; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C₁₋₄alkyl;

R⁷ is selected from halo, carboxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino and *N*-methyl-*N*-ethylamino.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The compound according to Claim 1 or a salt ~~or an *in vivo*~~ hydrolysable ester ~~or amide thereof~~, containing a carboxy ~~or a hydroxy group~~, wherein Ring A is unsubstituted or is substituted by carboxy.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The compound according to Claim 2 or a salt ~~or an *in vivo*~~ hydrolysable ester ~~or amide thereof~~, containing a carboxy ~~or a hydroxy group~~, wherein one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The compound according Claim 1 or a salt ~~or an *in vivo*~~ hydrolysable ester ~~or amide thereof~~, containing a carboxy ~~or a hydroxy group~~, wherein R^3 is selected from C_{1-4} alkoxy; wherein R^3 is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^6 .

Claim 5 (currently amended): The compound according to Claim 1 or a salt ~~or an *in vivo*~~ hydrolysable ester ~~or amide thereof~~, containing a carboxy ~~or a hydroxy group~~, wherein R^3 is selected from 2-fluorobenzyloxy, 5-methylisoxazol-3-ylmethoxy and 2-thien-3-ylethoxy.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A compound according to Claim 1 ~~or a salt or an *in vivo*~~ hydrolysable ester ~~or amide thereof~~, containing a carboxy ~~or a hydroxy group~~, selected from:

2-methyl-4-isobutoxy-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

2-methyl-4-(2-fluorophenylmethoxy)-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

2-methyl-4-isobutoxy-6-[*N*-(5-carboxythiazol-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

2-methyl-4-(5-methylisoxazol-3-ylmethoxy)-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

4-(2-fluorophenylmethoxy)-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

4-(5-methylisoxazol-3-ylmethoxy)-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

2-methyl-4-(thien-2-ylethoxy)-6-[*N*-(5-carboxypyridin-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran; and

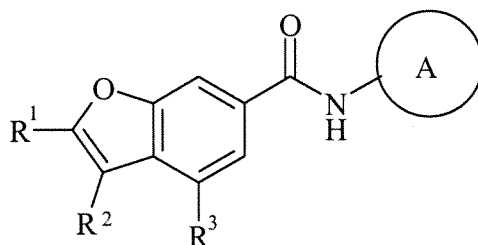
2-methyl-4-isobutoxy-6-[*N*-(thiazol-2-yl)carbamoyl]benzofuran;

or a salt thereof.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6, or a salt ~~or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof,~~ containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The method of treating a disease mediated through glucokinase, comprising administering an effective amount of a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 6 or a salt ~~or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof,~~ containing a carboxy ~~or a hydroxy group.~~

Claim 9 (currently amended and withdrawn): A method for preparing a compound of formula (I) or a salt ~~or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof,~~ containing a carboxy or a hydroxy group:



(I)

wherein:

Ring A is pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl; wherein said pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R⁴;

one of R¹ and R² is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or C₁₋₄alkyl; wherein R¹ and R² are optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R⁵;

R³ is selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, C₁₋₄alkoxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocycloxy and heterocycloxy; wherein R³ is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups

selected from R^6 ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl;

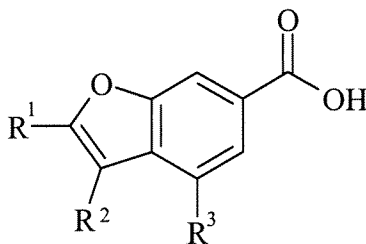
R^4 is selected from halo, carboxy and C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂amino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocycloxy, heterocycloxy and carbocyclidenyl; wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^7 ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^7 is selected from halo, carboxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino and N -methyl- N -ethylamino;

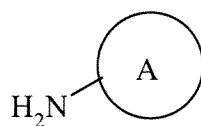
wherein the method comprises:

Process 1): reacting an acid of formula (II):



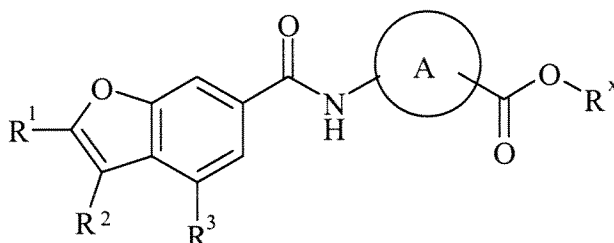
(II)

or an activated derivative thereof; with a compound of formula (III); or



(III)

Process 2) for compounds of formula (I) wherein R^4 is carboxy; deprotecting a compound of formula (III):

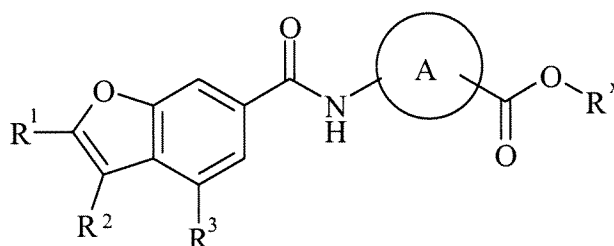


(III)

wherein $R^x-OC(O)$ is an ester group and R^x is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl and benzyl;
and optionally:

- i) converting a compound of the formula (I) into another compound of the formula (I); and/or
- ii) removing any protecting groups; and/or
- iii) forming a salt or an *in vivo* hydrolysable ester or amide thereof.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A compound of formula (III):



(III)

wherein:

$R^x-OC(O)$ is an ester group and R^x is selected from C_{1-6} alkyl and benzyl;

Ring A is pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl; wherein said pyridin-2-yl or thiazol-2-yl is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^4 ;

one of R^1 and R^2 is hydrogen and the other is hydrogen or C_{1-4} alkyl; wherein R^1 and R^2 are optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups selected from R^5 ;

R^3 is selected from C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocycloxy and heterocycloxy; wherein R^3 is optionally substituted on carbon by one or more groups

selected from R^6 ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^4 is selected from halo, carboxy and C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^5 and R^6 are independently selected from halo, C_{1-4} alkyl, C_{1-4} alkoxy, N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)amino, N,N -(C_{1-4} alkyl)₂amino, carbocyclyl, heterocyclyl, carbocyclyloxy, heterocyclyloxy and carbocyclylidenyl; wherein R^5 and R^6 are independently optionally substituted on carbon by one or more R^7 ; and wherein if said heterocyclyl contains an -NH- moiety that nitrogen is optionally substituted by C_{1-4} alkyl;

R^7 is selected from halo, carboxy, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, methylamino, ethylamino, dimethylamino, diethylamino and N -methyl- N -ethylamino.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The method of claim 9, wherein R^x is selected from methyl and ethyl.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The compound of claim 10, wherein R^x is selected from methyl and ethyl.